

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:GECHAFIN:GMR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122847

LIMDIS, FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MEXICO 4551 ACTION SECSTATE 26 MAY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4551

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: CERDS AND MEXICO/US RELATIONS

1. WHILE I INTEND TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH FONMIN RABASA AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY, I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF CONVERSATION TODAY WITH SUBSECRETARY OF PRESIDENCY FAUSTO ZAPATA TO MAKE THE PINTS SUGGESTED EARLIER BY DEPARTMENT. IN FACT I WENT BEYOND THE PURELY CERDS ASPECT OF PROBLEM TO TELL HIM THAT WHILE WE COULD UNDERSTAND ECHEVERRIA'S TACTIC OF BAD-MOUTHING US FOR THE SAKE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL/SOCIAL PEACE, WE COULD NOT HELP BUT FEEL HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN OVERDOING THIS BOTH IN VOLUME AND FREQUENCY; THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ALSO HAD SENSITIVITIES AND INTERNAL PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME,, AND THERE WAS THE RISK THAT OUR VERY SPECIAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH MEXICO MIGHT BE AFFECTED HOWEVER UNWITTINGLY. FOR INSTANNCE, THE FACT THAT THE ECHEVERRIAS HAD INVITED THE VISITING SOUTH VIETNAMESE (VIET CONG) AMBASSADOR TO CUBA AS THEIR GUEST ON THEIR

CURRENT TRIP TO THE INTERIOR MIGHT SEEM TO SOME TO BE AN EXCESSIVE GESTURE AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT. SIMILARLY, THE FACT THAT MEXICAN INSISTENCE ON INSERTING DETAILED CERDS LANGUAGE INTO EACH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, HOWEVER UNRELATED, HAD LED TO AN APPEARANCE OF CONFRONTATION BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS WHICH DID NOT, I KNEW, REFLECT THE TRUE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2. ZAPATA (WHO IS ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE "RIGHT HAND MEN" CLOSEST TO PRESIDENT) SAID THAT ON THE BASIS OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK HE ALSO COULD SENSE THAT U.S. PATIENCE WAS WEARING THIN WITH REGARD TO SOME OF MEXICAN RHETORIC. HE HAD ALREADY CAUTIONED ECHEVERRIA, WOULD NOW TELL HIM OF OUR CONVERSATION AND WAS CERTAIN THAT WE WOULD SEE GREATER MODERATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S PART IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AS REGARDS THE VIETNAM AMBASSADOR, WE SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT "WINDOW DRESSING" GESTURES AND OBSERVED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN CAUTIOUS IN THIS REGARD. HE WOULD ALSO MENTION TO THE PRESIDENT OUR CONCERN RE MEXICAN TACTICS ON CERDS AND THE FACT THAT I INTENDED TO SPEAK TO RABASA ON THIS MATTER AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH SIMILAR CAUTIONARY EXERCISE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HIS COLLABORATORS ON OTHER OCCASIONS AND SHOULD NOT BE OVER-OPTIMISTIC. NEVERTHELESS, THE FACT THAT ZAPATA FORESAW SOME GREATER MODERATION ON ECHEVERRIA'S PART (EVEN WHILE DEFENDING HIS TACTICS AS NECESSARY FOR SOCIAL/POLITICAL PEACE) GIVES SOME GROUND FOR HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE SOME IMPROVEMENT. JOVA UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

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